



STATE OF INDIANA
Department of Local Government Finance

MEDIA RELEASE

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New standards aimed at improving property tax management become effective Monday

INDIANAPOLIS – A new rule aimed at increasing efficiency in property tax management in Indiana becomes effective Monday.

The rule issued by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance and approved by Governor Mitch Daniels seeks to eliminate redundant data entry and provides the requirements for a locally integrated property tax management system.

"This is the next step in the evolution and improvement of property tax management in Indiana," said Melissa K. Henson, the Commissioner of the Department of Local Government Finance. "The new system will increase the efficiency of local government and provide state leaders the information needed to make sound property tax policy decisions."

Currently county assessors, auditors and treasurers use independent information systems to calculate property taxes and issue tax bills. The lack of integration in the systems creates significant duplicative manual data entry and invites error, Henson said.

The new standards found in Indiana Administrative Code 50 IAC 23 define the software requirements of the new system. The standards also establish a product certification program to ensure the software purchased by Indiana counties will seamlessly integrate.

"We'll work with county officials to ensure the tax dollars spent on this transformation are sound investments for the future," Henson said. "Only after a vendor's products meet our battery of stringent software integration tests will a county be able contract with a vendor for the new software."

Counties have until December 2008 to implement the system. Following county implementation, the state will begin efforts to integrate the county data into an online data portal for use by property owners and policy makers.

"This is truly a quantum leap forward for Indiana and for taxpayers," Henson said. "Not only will the system increase efficiency, it will also provide Hoosiers with improved access to property tax information in the future."

For more information on the rule, contact Mitch Frazier, the Department's public information officer, at (317) 233-9222. The rule can be found online at <http://www.in.gov/dlgf/laws/Statewide%20System%20-%20Gov%20approved.pdf>.